

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-81 were presented in this application. By this amendment, claims 28, 29, 48 and 51-55 are canceled, without prejudice.. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-27, 30-47, 49, 50 and 56-81 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-27 is noted and appreciated. Claims 30-47, 49, 50 and 56-81 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all base and intervening claim limitations.

Claims 30-33 are rewritten to include all limitations of base claim 28 and intervening claim 29. Claims 34-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 33. Claim 49 and 50 are rewritten to include all limitations of base claim 28 and intervening claim 48. Claims 56, 58, 59, 65, 70 and 71 are rewritten to include all limitations of base claim 54. Claim 57 depends from claim 56. Claims 60-64 and 72-81 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 59. Claims 66-69 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 65.

For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 30-47, 49, 50 and 56-81 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 28, 48, 51 and 52 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,072,611 to Budd et al. ("Budd"). Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,140,931 to Yamane et al. ("Yamane"). Claims 53-55 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Budd. Claims 28, 29, 48 and 51-55 are canceled, without prejudice.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain

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after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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